

HCS HB 306 -- WEIGH STATION AND BYPASS REQUIREMENT

SPONSOR: Berry

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Innovation and Technology by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill clarifies that the Missouri State Highway Patrol will regulate weigh stations and bypasses within Missouri. The Patrol may enter into contracts with private parties to operate weigh stations and locate stations and bypasses. Rules shall be uniform and consistent for all private operators of weigh stations and bypasses. The Patrol shall allow market forces to determine the number and location of bypasses. The bill requires the collection of real time data on weight of vehicles and allows its use by the state or private parties to determine costs to public roads. There is also a requirement for sharing weight in motion information among providers and a cost sharing provision regarding expenses for such sharing of information. The bill contains a conflict of interest provision preventing all types of state employees from providing or associating with weigh in motion service providers.

This bill is the similar to SB 198 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill prescribes methods to reopen the freight weigh station service provider market, encourage competitions, and removes a perceived conflict of interest regarding regulators currently serving on the board of a nonprofit contracting with the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Berry; Brian Heath, Drivewyze; and Eugene Conti, Intelligent Imaging Systems/Drivewyze.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the current provider is not a monopoly, but rather provides the best service at the best cost. This bill would enable for-profit companies to supplant a working non-profit model after the non-profit has just started liquidating the debt associated with providing weigh station services to the state.

Testifying against the bill were Mark Doughty, Help, Inc and the Missouri Trucking Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Missouri State Highway Patrol could be potentially burdened if site bypass service technology should later morph into a new form in the future that does not conform to the bill's parameters.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri State Highway Patrol and Scott Marion, Director of Motor Carrier Services.